

4400 Common Schools. In these were 4890 teachers, and the salaries of those teachers amounted last year to \$1,095,000. He found that the system was spreading and had reached Algoma, where there were 3 Common Schools. He had often to take strangers round the institutions of the city, and none of these delighted him more than their great centre, the Norman School. He would not further trespass on their time with general remarks. In Toronto there are nine schools. These have cost \$100,000 and are presided over by 45 teachers who were labouring arduously and successfully in their various spheres. The general attendance was about 4,000. But in the city it was calculated that there were 11,000 of school population which showed that something more was wanted to be done. With this fact before them, he urged on those present to push forward the Common School system in every street and every house until their schools were filled to repletion. Some had advocated the compulsory system, but without entering upon this subject, he would only say, that seeing we were all taxed for these schools, it may probably become a question for the Legislature to consider whether it might not be good policy to introduce some system of compulsory education. The Secretary, Mr. G. A. Barber, read Examiners' report. Rev. Dr. Ryerson eulogised the principles on which the schools were conducted and especially that part of it which made a distinction between the idle and the negligent. He congratulated them also on having the able assistance and experience of their excellent superintendent. With regard to the statistics of the system generally, he could inform them that those of last year surpass those of any former year. Last year, the expenditure of the Common School system amounted to \$1,700,000. This was not granted by any Legislature but was the spontaneous outlay of a willing people. In fact, their system was essentially voluntary in its nature, and surpassed in this respect the school system of every other country. He congratulated the country on the strides their system was making, and whoever might live to see it, would see it advance yet further, till every man and every child in this fair country would be thoroughly educated and thoroughly intelligent. The Rev. Dr. Jennings said that he joined with the last speaker in congratulating the young friends he saw before him on the success they had achieved, and stated that while he had the opportunity he would remark that there seemed to be something of a hiatus in our Common School system. We had the lower rung in the ladder all right; but the middle and upper ones were all wrong. This would not have been the case had not the Upper Canada College got the means which properly belonged to the Toronto Grammar School. The latter, however, was doing its duty well under opposing circumstances. He had no doubt the uninviting appearance of the building militated strongly against its success, because both the boys and their parents wished to have the school which they patronized conducted in a good building. He had nothing to say against Upper Canada College, but he thought that the expense of education in that institution was such as to prohibit a great many from attending it who would wish to do so. The speaker next referred to the education of young ladies in the city, and suggested the advisability of the authorities providing a Grammar School, in which girls, as well as boys, could enjoy the advantages of such education as was to be had in such an institution. A proper building erected and applied to that purpose would, he had no doubt, be a great benefit to the city of Toronto. Archdeacon Fuller said perhaps there was no person present who could look back so far in his school days in Toronto. Half a century ago he had attended school in Toronto, but things were different then from what they are now. There was no algebra or mensuration in those days, and the children of our day ought to be thankful for the privileges they enjoy. One remark he wished to make, viz., that he thought their schools did not go low enough. They wanted some more schools specially adapted to the wants of their arab population. It was a sad fact that was stated, that there were six thousand who ought to attend school who did not, and he trusted their excellent Chief Superintendent would keep this in view when he brought in his new educational measure, and introduce this element into it, and

thus render it more than ever the pride of the inhabitants of Ontario. Rev. Mr. Gregg urged the children to persevere in their studies, and gave a worthy example of a poor boy—the father of Sir William Thompson—having risen to eminence by pursuing his studies attentively, and trusted that the children he then addressed would profit by remembering this example. Hon. M. C. Cameron was pleased to observe that these combined examinations were conducted without regard to race or color—many of the colored children having been successful in carrying off prizes from their white companions. He spoke in high terms of the success which had attended the labours of the respected Superintendent of Education, who had spent nearly half a life-time in bringing the Common School system to its present state of perfection, and said that Dr. Ryerson might well feel proud of the honor which he had won in his efforts in behalf of Common Schools. The successful pupils were then called forward, and were presented by the Mayor with the prizes which had been awarded them. Rev. Mr. Porter then stated that during the previous day no less than five hundred certificates of honor had been distributed in the various schools—certificates, he might say, which were as valuable as those presented that evening. Ald. Baxter wished to make an explanation, which he deemed necessary on account of a statement which had been made by a couple of the previous speakers to the effect, that although Toronto had a school population of 11,000, only 4,000 were in attendance at the schools. Now he had to admit that at the best Toronto was bad enough in this respect, but he did not wish this fair city to be misrepresented. The meeting should remember that when all the children who attended Upper Canada College, the various private schools and the separate schools, were taken into account a very considerable number more than 4,000 children attended school in this city. The Rev. Mr. King then pronounced the benediction and the meeting separated.—*Globe and Leader*.

—EDUCATION IN PERTH.—An elaborate report was read from Mr. W. Rath, L. S. of schools, in which he stated that in the 42 schools under his charge in 1868, 13 teachers held Normal School certificates, distributed thus:—Ellice 2; Hibbert 1; Fullarton 5; Blanshard 5. The average salaries were,—in Ellice, \$273; Logan, \$280; Hibbert, \$328; Fullarton, \$369; Blanshard, \$337. Fullarton was entitled to bear the palm in the superiority of its schools (hear, hear from the deputy-reeve); but Ellice was waking up, and both Logan and Ellice showed a respectable increase in the attendance for '68 over '67. The average number of children in his division not attending school was 9 per cent. of the school population—thus there would be 100 neglected children in each township. He bore testimony to the efficiency of the Perth Board of Public instruction; and concluded by reporting favourably of the progress of the schools under his charge during the past two years. A report was also read from Rev. Mr. Drummond, L.S.S. for Downie and South Easthope, and from Rev. A. E. Miller, L.S.S. for Elma and Wallace, containing a large amount of information regarding the schools in their districts. Mr. Drummond concluded by referring in terms of praise to the munificent donation of James Trow, Esq., M.P.P., to each of the sections in his district. "Such an act displays the deep interest he (the donor) takes in the cause of education. And cannot fail to induce other prominent men to take a livelier interest in those matters upon which the prosperity of the country will by and bye depend; while directly it encourages the teacher, cheers the children" and tends to make school life happier.

—GIFT TO THE UNIVERSITY LIBRARY.—The library of the University of Toronto has just been enriched by a valuable donation of one hundred and forty volumes, the gift of the well known English publisher, Alexander Macmillan, Esq. They include Biography, Classics, Early English Literature, &c., many of them the carefully prepared editions recently issued from the Clarendon Press, and will constitute a justly prized addition to the shelves of the library of our Provincial University. Mr. Macmillan visited the University in 1867, and sends this gift in token of his high appreciation of the institution, and of the great care and judgment with which its library has been formed. Such liberality cannot be too highly estimated. We shall be glad to record similar acts among our own wealthy Canadians, on